

7/17/81

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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

July 17, 1981

His Excellency
Roberto Viola
President
Republic of Argentina
Buenos Aires

Dear Mr. President:

We have been pleased to learn that a number of persons in Argentina who had been detained or refused the right of option to leave the country have recently been released by your government. While we are of course grateful that these persons have been freed, we regret that many others in Argentina continue to be deprived of their liberty without charges having been brought against them.

We are also concerned about information which we have received that Adolfo Perez Esquivel, winner of the Nobel Prize for Peace, his children, and his colleagues in his human rights organization, Servicio Paz y Justicia, have been subjected to bomb and other death threats. We urge you to take all necessary actions to resolve these intimidations and to ensure that they are not repeated.

In addition, we are disturbed to learn that Mrs. Hebe Bonafini and Mrs. Maria Adela Antokoletz, respectively the President and Vice President of the Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo, were detained in Buenos Aires on July 7 upon their return from the United States, and that documents and other materials belonging to them were seized by the Air Force police. We urge you to direct that the seized documents and materials -- which pertain to the meeting of the women with the U.S. Friends of the Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo, their visits to the Congress, financial matters, the plaque of the Rothko Chapel Award for Truth and Freedom, and the cassette tape of a Bill Moyers television production -- be promptly returned, and that the future safety and well-being of the Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo be secured.

We hope that you will be able to protect these individuals, to hasten the release of prisoners held without charge, and to make a full accounting for those who have "disappeared."

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

(☒) Release (☐) Excise (☐) Deny

Exemption(s):

Declassify: (☐) In Part (☐) In Full

(☐) Classify as (☐) Extend as (☐) Downgrade to

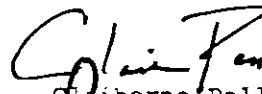
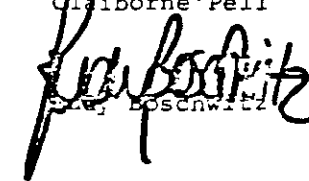
Date Declassify on Reason

Lot 82D275
Box 3541
(2/17)


President Roberto Viola
page 2

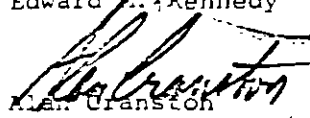
These actions are not only merited on humanitarian grounds but would contribute importantly to improving relations between our two countries. They would be fully consistent with your commitment to improve the status of human rights in Argentina, and would be well-received throughout the world.

Our thanks for your consideration, and best wishes,


Claiborne Pell

Peter Boschwitz

Sincerely,


Edward M. Kennedy


Alan Cranston